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1944

With the Colors: Jasper County IL Servicemen  
Overseas, 1941-1945

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1-28-1944

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### Recommended Citation

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## With the *1/2 8/4s* Colors

Sergeant L. Paul Jackson writes his mother, Mrs. M. B. Jackson of Hidalgo, from Somewhere in England:

"It is Saturday evening and I didn't have anything planned for this evening so I will just stay in and do some letter writing. I received two letters from you and one from my brother Doyle today, the first mail I've had for quite awhile. The mail service here is bad for some reason.

"I will be able to tell you a little more in this letter as they have lifted a few of the censorship regulations. I am in barracks now and I know you will be glad to know that I am not sleeping on the ground. I have a wooden bed, no springs but do have a straw mattress and it all seems pretty good after living out in the wide open spaces for over a year, and, believe it or not, we have bath tubs and showers. 'Some class' huh?

"It sure does seem good to get in a tub full of hot water and just soak after being used to taking a bath in my helmet full of water. But with all the nice things here, I'd still just as leave be in Africa where the sun shines. The people are swell here; plenty of girls, too, so we can have a good time when we do go out. I've been out several times. I can get plenty of passes; also an eight day furlough. I haven't taken a furlough yet but am going to.

"Everything is plenty high here and almost everything we try to buy is rationed. All their clothes are rationed. I know that you are wondering if I have found Noel Hunt yet, No, but just now I am waiting on an answer to the letter I wrote him a week ago. I wrote one week ago today to arrange a meeting place so am waiting a reply. It is a tough job to locate someone when you aren't allowed to tell each other your location.

"I have been going to church most every Sunday. They have some real nice churches here in England. There is a lot of flu here but it is mostly among the civilians. I've had a terrible cold ever since I got here, but am just in and out all the time. The weather isn't so cold but so damp and chilly. It is just a little tough to get used to after living in Africa and Sicily."

In a postscript he added: "Noel and I got together. He was out driving his company commander so drove to my address and found me. We visited about an hour. We both have eight day furloughs coming to us, so will try to get them together and what a time we will have. There are lots of nice places to go. I have been to Liverpool and Noel has been to London and we intend to go sight-seeing together."

Herschel A. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones of Newton, is now receiving basic flight training as an aviation cadet at the Bainbridge Army Air field, Bainbridge, Georgia. He completed pre-flight training at Maxwell field, Alabama, and his primary training at one of the many fields throughout the southeast.

The Bainbridge Flying school, a unit of the vast Army Air Forces Training Command, is commanded by Colonel Mills S. Savage, a graduate of Georgia Tech and a veteran in the Army Air Forces.

Cadet Jones is a graduate of the Newton Community high school and the Eastern Illinois State Teachers college, where he was an outstanding athlete. He played on the foot ball, basket ball and base ball teams. A former school teacher, he enlisted for aviation cadet training on February 28, 1943.